

**Statement: US Coast Guard Cutter STORIS**

In June 2013, the General Services Administration auctioned the ship "STORIS" on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), which is a retired USCG cutter built in 1942. On October 21, EPA received information that the STORIS was potentially being exported by U.S. Metals Recovery to Mexico for scrapping and that the ship could contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in concentrations greater than or equal to 50 parts per million (ppm). EPA immediately began investigating to determine if the vessel contained PCBs, and if so, at what level. This investigation remains ongoing.

If the STORIS is found to have PCBs at the above level, the ship owner would be in violation of the federal Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). TSCA and the PCB regulations prohibit the export of PCBs greater than or equal to 50 ppm for disposal unless an exemption is granted through the rulemaking process outlined under TSCA.

EPA does not approve ships for export. The ship owner is responsible for removing and/or remediating any shipboard materials that contain PCBs in the above concentrations prior to exporting the vessel for disposal.